

Message Text

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10

ACTION EUR-25

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INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2908

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NL, WEU

SUBJ: MEETING OF WEU POLITICAL COMMITTEE

1. SUMMARY: DURING SESSION WITH WEU POLITICAL
COMMITTEE FEB 4, STATE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
KOOIJMANS SAID EUROPEANS MUST "MAKE UP THEIR MINDS AND
REFORMULATE THEIR AIMS" ABOUT ULTIMATE GOAL OF
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OF EUROPEAN UNITY. HE WAS CRITICAL OF ANGLO-FRENCH

ATTITUDES DURING OIL CRISIS. KOOIJMANS SAID GON
REJECTS CONCEPT OF EUROPE AS SUPER-POWER WITH ITS
OWN NUCLEAR FORCE, AND THAT GON PREFERS EUROGROUP TO
WEU FORUM FOR SOLUTION OF DEFENSE PROBLEMS. END
SUMMARY.

2. AT JOINT MEETING OF WEU POLITICAL COMMITTEE WITH
MEMBERS OF DUTCH PARLIAMENT SPECIALIZING IN EUROPEAN
COOPERATION AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN THE HAGUE FEB 4,
STATE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS KOOIJMANS SAID
THE BREAKDOWN OF EUROPEAN UNITY DURING ARAB OIL BOYCOTT
HAS RAISED FUNDAMENTAL DOUBTS ABOUT FUTURE OF
EUROPEAN UNITY. BRIEFING PRESS AFTER MEETING,
KOOIJMANS SAID, "WE SHOULD MAKE UP OUR MINDS AND
FORMULATE OUR AIMS ABOUT THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF EUROPEAN
UNITY." HE SAID GON WAS CRITICAL OF ANGLO-FRENCH
ATTITUDES DURING OIL CRISIS AND WARNED FRAGMENTED
EUROPE WOULD MEAN "ENDLESS MISERY FOR THIS PART OF
THE WORLD."

3. KOOIJMANS REITERATED PERENNIAL GON THEME THAT
EXERCISE OF POWER IN EUROPE MUST BE SUBJECT TO CONTROL
OF DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED PARLIAMENT. THE STATE
SECRETARY SAID OBSTRUCTION TO REALIZATION THIS GOAL
WAS LACK OF AGREEMENT ON COMMON FOREIGN POLICY.
KOOIJMANS SAID, "IN THE PAST WE THOUGHT THAT ECONOMIC
COOPERATION WOULD MEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION. WE
NOW KNOW THIS IS NOT TRUE." EXPANDING ON THIS THEME
KOOIJMANS REJECTED IDEA OF EUROPE AS SUPER-POWER
COMPLETE WITH ITS OWN NUCLEAR FORCE. HE MAINTAINED
INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN NUCLEAR FORCE WOULD "CREATE FEAR,
DISTURB EQUILIBRIUM AND MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO
CONTROL NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT." KOOIJMANS FORESAW NEW
ROLE FOR EUROPE IN CREATING BETTER UNDERSTANDING WITH
EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND IN AIDING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT OF THIRD WORLD. HE SAID THIS
COULD BE DONE THROUGH CONSTRUCTIVE COOPERATION "WITHIN
THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE".

4. DURING PRESENTATION, KOOIJMANS EMPHASIZED GON
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PREFERS NATO'S EUROGROUP TO WESTERN UNION
FOR SOLVING DEFENSE PROBLEMS. SECOND CHAMBER FOREIGN
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DANKERT WHO CHAIRED WEU SESSION
LATER TOLD PRESS IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION FRENCH EFFORTS TO
ENHANCE ROLE OF WEU WERE PROMPTED BY DESIRE FOR COOPERATION
IN ARMAMENTS FIELD RATHER THAN BY POLITICAL
CONSIDERATIONS.

5. COMMENT: LABOR SECOND CHAMBER MEMBER (AND
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIAN) PATIJN TOLD EMBOFF FEB 6
WEU POLITICAL COMMITTEE HAD BEEN RATHER
UNEVENTFUL. ONLY POTENTIAL PROBLEM CAME WHEN
KOOIJMANS TALKED ABOUT POSSIBLE CREATION OF EUROPEAN
NUCLEAR FORCE WITHIN NATO. PATIJN SAID HE QUICKLY
CONSULTED WITH DANKERT WHO ASSISTED KOOIJMANS IN
CORRECTING HIMSELF. THIS MISINTERPRETATION OF GON
POLICY DID NOT GET INTO PRESS. PATIJN SAID HAD
KOOIJMANS' REMARKS BEEN REPORTED, FOREIGN MINISTER
VAN DER STOEL WOULD HAVE BEEN OBLIGED SET RECORD
STRAIGHT PUBLICALLY.
GOULD

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